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## P R O C E E D I N G S

OF THE

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY,  
HELD AT PHILADELPHIA, FOR PROMOTING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

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VOL. I. PART I.

1744 to 1837.

No. 1.

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[The earliest records of the Society are comprised in a thin volume, bound in half Russia, and marked on the back 1768, the first page of which is occupied by the following letter from Franklin to Mr. Colden.]

NEW YORK, April 5, 1744.

SIR

Happening to be in this City about some particular Affairs, I have the Pleasure of receiving yours of the 28th past, here. And can now acquaint you, that the Society, as far as relates to Philadelphia, is actually formed, and has had several Meetings to mutual Satisfaction;—assoon [sic] as I get home, I shall send you a short Acct. of what has been done and proposed at these meetings. The Members are

Dr. Thomas Bond,	as	Physician
M <sup>r</sup> . John Bartram	— as —	Botanist
M <sup>r</sup> . Thomas Godfrey	— as —	Mathematician
M <sup>r</sup> . Saml. Rhodes*	— as —	Mechanician
M <sup>r</sup> . H <sup>m</sup> Parsons	— as —	Geographer
D <sup>r</sup> . Phineas Bond	as	General Nat. Philosopher
M <sup>r</sup> . Thos. Hopkinson	—	President
M <sup>r</sup> . Wm. Coleman	—	Treasurer
B. F.	—	Secret <sup>y</sup>

To whom the following Members have since been added

\* Written thus by Franklin. "Rhoads" in the list.

New York, April 5. 1744

Sir,

Happening to be in this City about some particular Affairs, I have the Pleasure of receiving yours of the 28<sup>th</sup> past, here. And can now acquaint you, that the Society, as far as relates to Philadelphia, is actually formed, and has had several Meetings to mutual Satisfaction; — soon as I get home I shall send you a full Account of what has been done and proposed at those Meetings. The Members are

D Thomas Bond as Physician  
 Mr John Bartram as Botanist  
 Mr Thomas Godfrey as Mathematician  
 Mr James Rhodes as Mechanician  
 Mr W Dafours as Geographer  
 Dr Thomas Bond as General Nat Philosopher  
 Mr Phi' Washington — President,  
 Mr Wm Goleman — Treasurer,  
 R H — Secretary

To whom the following Members have since been added viz. Mr Alexander of New York. Mr Horne (R Justice of the Jerseys) Mr Horne Secretary of Dr. M Johnson of Trenton and Mr Martyn of the same Place. — Mr Nichols tells me of several other Gentlemen of this City that incline to encourage the thing. — And there are a Number of others in Virginia Maryland, Carolina, and the New England Colonies for who we expect to join us, soon as they are acquainted how the Society has begun to form itself. I am, Sir, with much Respect

Your most Obedt Servt

The Hon Cadwallader Colden Esqr

B Franklin

viz. M<sup>r</sup>. Alexander of New York. M<sup>r</sup>. Morris (Ch. Justice of the Jerseys). M<sup>r</sup>. Home Secretary of D<sup>o</sup>. Mr. Jn<sup>o</sup>. Coxe of Trenton, and M<sup>r</sup>. Martyn of the same Place.—M<sup>r</sup>. Nicholls tells me of several other Gentlemen of this City that incline to encourage the Thing.—And there are a Number of others in Virginia, Maryland, Carolina, and the New England Colonies who we expect to join us, assoon [sic] as they are acquainted that the Society has begun to form itself. I am, Sir, with much respect

Your most hum<sup>e</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

B. FRANKLIN.

The Hon<sup>e</sup> Cadwallader Colden, Esq.

[Twenty-four blank pages of a more modern paper are here bound in. Then sidewise is written the following, evidently an endorsement on the back of a foolscap document, folded once.]

ORIGINAL MINUTES  
 &  
 FIRST-\* CONSTITUTION  
 OF  
 THE "AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY;"  
 Held at Philadelphia for Promoting  
 Useful Knowledge—

[The last two lines carefully erased; and under them, in a different and later handwriting, four lines, thus:]

One of the component Societies of  
 the "American Philosophical  
 Society held at Philadelphia  
 for promoting Use [sic] Knowledge."

[Under all, but written transversely and of a later date:]

*From January 19. 1768—to Dec. 20. 1768.*

[\* The word *first* has been crossed out.]

[The leaf is mounted so as to show the following title in the old handwriting of the former one.]

**MINUTE Book  
OF THE  
AMERICAN  
PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY  
*From January 1768.***

[Then on two pages, facing each other, and in two columns of names on each page, four columns in all]

**LIST OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY**

<i>When chosen</i>	<i>Names</i>
Old members begun 1743, the Original Plan,	Benjamin Franklin Esqr, LL.D. William Coleman Esqr Mr. John Bartram Dr. Thos. Bond Dr. Phineas Bond Samuel Rhoads. Esqr Revd Dr. Fra. Alison
Nov <sup>r</sup> 1767	Dr. Will <sup>m</sup> Shippen Dr. Will <sup>m</sup> Shippen Jr
Declines	Dr. Cadwalader [sic] Evans Mr. John Lukens, Surveyor General
1768	Mr. Philip Syng
Jan'y 12 <sup>th</sup>	Revd Dr. Will <sup>m</sup> Smith George Bryan Esqr Revd Mr. John Ewing Edw <sup>d</sup> Shippen jun <sup>r</sup> Esqr
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mr. David Rittenhouse Mr. Hugh Roberts Mr. Israel Pemberton James Tilghman Esqr W <sup>m</sup> Logan Esqr

Joseph Shippen jun<sup>r</sup> Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Joseph Galloway Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Tho<sup>s</sup> Willing Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Benjamin Chew Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Dr. Tho<sup>s</sup> Cadwalader  
 Dr. Adam Kuhn  
 Dr. John Redman  
 M<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Pryor  
 \*Dr. Hugh Williamson  
 †John Dickinson Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Hon<sup>ble</sup> John Penn Esq<sup>r</sup> } Patron  
 Hon<sup>ble</sup> James Hamilton Esq<sup>r</sup> } Presid<sup>t</sup> Feb'y 9<sup>th</sup>  
 Hon<sup>ble</sup> William Allen Esq<sup>r</sup>

26<sup>th</sup> Lyn Ford Lardner  
 Joseph Richardson  
 Richard Penn  
 John Ross } Esq<sup>rs</sup>  
 John Allen  
 Andrew Allen  
 James Allen  
 Francis Hopkinson  
 M<sup>r</sup>. Ebenezer Kinnersley  
 M<sup>r</sup>. Thomas Coombs  
 Dr. Charles Moore  
 M<sup>r</sup>. John Reynell  
 M<sup>r</sup>. Jonathan Smith  
 Alexander Stedman Esq<sup>r</sup>

*Corresponding members in different Provinces.*

1743	Hon <sup>ble</sup> Cadwalader Colden, New York
1768	Daniel Dulancey [sic] Esq <sup>r</sup> Ma . . . . . ‡
Jany. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Garden, South Carol . . . . .
	Dr. Lee, Virginia
	M <sup>r</sup> . Winthrop, Massac . . . . .
	Dr. Styles, Connecticu . . . . .

\* Obliterated, nearly, at the bottom of the page, and re-written in the column of dates in other and later handwriting.

† Not in the column; but inserted in small hand in the column of dates.

‡ Paper torn off before pasting to bind.

March 8<sup>th</sup> Mr. Edward Duffield  
 Samuel Mifflin Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. David Hall, Printer  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup> Barton  
 John Kidd Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. Robert Smith, Architect  
 Mr. Thomas Smith  
 Tho<sup>s</sup> — Barnsley Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. Thomas Bond  
 His Excellency W<sup>m</sup> Franklin Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. W<sup>m</sup> West  
 Mr. Robert Proud  
 Joseph Fox Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. James Dickinson  
 Mr. John Rhea  
 Isaac Jones Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. Rob<sup>t</sup> Strettel Jones  
 Mr. Stephen Watts  
 Mr. Samuel Caldwell  
 Edw<sup>d</sup> Shippen Esq<sup>r</sup> of Lancaster  
 Tho<sup>s</sup> McKean Esq<sup>r</sup> of Newcastle  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Richard Peters  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Jacob Duchè  
 John Foxcroft Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. John Sellers, Surveyor  
 Dr. Thomas Græme  
 Dr. John Kearsley  
 Mr. Sam<sup>l</sup> Purviance jun<sup>r</sup>

---

22<sup>d</sup> \*Mr. Osowell Eve

May 18<sup>th</sup> Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Harding  
 Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup> Potts  
 Mr. James Wright  
 Alex<sup>r</sup> Wilcox Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 Mr. Tho<sup>s</sup> Bradford  
 James Biddle Esq<sup>r</sup>

\* Captain Osowell Eve in the List, published in 1880.

\*Rev<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. Bacon  
 Charles Reade Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 John Gibson Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 W<sup>m</sup> Smith  
 W<sup>m</sup> Livingston } Esq<sup>rs</sup> of New York  
 John Morin Scot }  
 Richard Stockton  
 Wm Peartree Smith  
 John Smith } Esq<sup>rs</sup> of New Jersey  
 Samuel Smith  
 Joseph Reade  
 Richard Hockley Esq<sup>r</sup>  
 M<sup>r</sup>. James Davidson

Aug<sup>t</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Hon<sup>ble</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. Antill of New Jersey

M<sup>r</sup>. W<sup>m</sup> Rumsey  
 †M<sup>r</sup>. W<sup>m</sup> Holiday  
 M<sup>r</sup>. John Davis  
 Dr. Edw<sup>d</sup> Holyoke of Massachusetts  
 Dr. Anderson of Maryland  
 Dr. Benjamin Gule of Connecticut  
 ‡Dr. Sandford of Barbadoes  
 Dr. Warner of Antigua

Oct 18<sup>th</sup> Dr. John Denormandie of Bristol  
 Joseph Kirkbride Esq<sup>r</sup> Bucks Cy.  
 Dr. P. Burgius, Prof. Nat. Hist. Stockholm  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Dr. Ch. Magnus Wrangel  
 Christian McGee LL.D. of Heidelberg  
 Dr. Cullen of Edinburgh  
 Monsieur Buffon at Paris  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Fred. Farmer, Philad<sup>a</sup>

[After two blank pages, on which the numbers continue,  
 4 and 5, commence the]

\* Erased & marked "dead "

† This name is later given as Henry Holiday, on May 18, 1768.

‡ This name is given later, on August 16, 1768, as Sandiford.